

REMARKS

Claims 10-12 have been cancelled. Thus, Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the present application, of which Claims 1, 4 and 7 have been amended.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Snyder et al.* (US 6,754,891). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

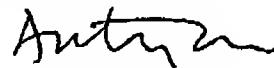
Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 10-12 would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Because the contents of Claims 10, 11 and 12 have been incorporated into Claims 1, 4 and 7, respectively; thus, the § 102 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claims 1, 4 and 7 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of this application, please charge it against IBM Deposit Account No. 09-0465.

Respectfully submitted,



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